

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for clarification. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 was previously objected to by the Examiner as being dependent on a rejected claim. As such, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 3 and its dependent claim 4.

Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite that the adjustable filter means have "a first attenuation amount more than a predetermined amount and a second attenuation amount not more than a predetermined amount". Additionally, claim 1 recites that the control means select "during operation, between a first and second attenuation amounts".

Previously, independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,637 ("Bradley") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,746 ("Katayama"). Applicant respectfully asserts that this combination fails to disclose amended claim 1.

Bradley only discloses a single attenuation amount. Applicant explicitly recited a first and second attenuation amount. Thus, Bradley fails to teach this explicitly recited limitation. The inclusion of Katayama does not cure the deficiency in Bradley. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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